American Research Center In Egypt, Inc.

NEWSLETTER



Robert M. Adams

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Through the courtesy of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, an Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt was held this year in Chicago on November 13th.

The meeting was well attended by members and their guests. Among the latter were Mr. Renzo Pagin of the Department of State of the United States of America, Miss Bea Davidson of the Smithsonian Institution, Professor Jaroslav Cerny, distinguished Professor of Egyptology Emeritus of Oxford University, Dr. Labib Habachi, a well-known scholar from Egypt, and Mrs. Habachi, who has for several years been associated with the office of the Center in Cairo. Others present included the following:

Aziz Attya Alexander M. Badawy Klaus Baer Hollis Baker Lanny Bell John Callender Louis Cantor Mrs. Jaroslav Cerny John D. Cooney Jeffrey Cooper Edgar Crocker Khalid el-Dissouky Mrs. Khalid el-Dissouky Donald Edgar A. S. Ehrenkrevtz Henry G. Fischer Joan Gartland Mary B. Geiger Michael Glassman Hans Goedicke Joan Goodnick G. von Grunebaum Donald Hansen I. F. Harik J. D. Hoag George R. Hughes Mrs. George R. Hughes Gail Humphreys Stephen Humphreys Leila Ibrahim Guner Inal Miss Jackson Gerald E. Kadish Marilyn Kelly Stet Kenyer

David Larkin Leonard H. Lesko D. W. Lockard Thomas J. Logan Muhsin Mahdi Gail Malmgreen Winifred Needler Del Nord Mrs. Ruth Oenslager Ann Perkins Richard A. Parker Mrs. Richard A Parker Donald B. Redford G. Risse Hans O. Schaden Alan R. Schulman Robert L. Scranton Mrs. Robert L. Scranton Keith C. Seele Mrs. Keith C. Seele K. I. H. Semaan William K. Simpson Myron B. Smith William S. Smith John Switalski Mrs. John Switalski Barbara Switalski Kent Weeks C Bedford Welles Ronald J. Williams Mrs. Ronald J. Williams John A. Wilson Mrs. John A. Wilson Samuel Yeivin Father louis Zabkar





The business meeting opened with a report from the President, William Stevenson Smith. This was followed by reports from the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer and, finally, by a stimulating program of papers on various aspects of Egyptian culture, arranged by Professor Klaus Baer of the Oriental Institute, in cooperation with other members of the Program Committee, of which he acted as Chairman. The day ended with a reception for members and their guests at the Oriental Institute.

The officers of the Center wish here to express their thanks for the warm hospitality shown by the Chicago colleagues on this most pleasant and profitable occasion.

The Report of the President

Those who were fortunate enough to attend the Annual Meeting heard those parts of the following report which were included in the address given by the President of the Center, William Stevenson Smith, on that occasion. Dr. Smith offers here a somewhat amplified account of the history and present state of the Center for the benefit of the membership at large.

The American Research Center in Egypt has been most fortunate in its friends. We have now lost, through the death of Corinna Lindon Smith last summer, one of the best of them, our most devoted ally in all our endeavors. If any single person can be said to have been responsible for the existence of our organization that person was certainly Mrs. Lindon Smith.

In the first years after the war, she and her husband, the late Joseph Lindon Smith, in conjunction with Edward Forbes and Sterling Dow, who was then President of the Archaeological Institute of America, began to look for means of reviving and stimulating American interest in Egypt. After her husband's death, Mrs. Smith worked steadily toward this end--steadily and tirelessly, as she always did with interests close to her heart. At this time last year, although she was approaching her ninetieth birthday, she attended the New York meeting of the Center throughout the day; her state of health was then such as would have prevented any person of less determination from undertaking the strain. Few are given the opportunity of maintaining their interests to the age of ninety. That she was able to do so is a finer thing than any tribute we might attempt to pay her.

In February, 1950, seven persons, Mrs. Smith among them, met in Boston and founded the American Research Center in Egypt. The aims of the new organization were to foster Egyptological, Islamic, and other humanistic studies related to Egypt and to assist American and other scholars who required information in their various fields of research. Thanks to the support of a small but faithful membership, recruited through the efforts of the founding body, we were able to make a start. Fulbright awards permitted us to maintain a representative in Cairo. Generous gifts from Mr. and Mrs. John Dimick and Mr. John Goelet ultimately enabled us to open a small office there. A substantial grant from the Bollingen Foundation provided first one and then two fellowships a year for research in Egypt. Finally, under the UNESCO Program for the Preservation of the Antiquities of Nubia and with further assistance from the National Geographic Society, we began the excavation of Gebel Adda, which is now about to enter upon its fourth season's work.

In the Fall of 1962 the Bureau of Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State approached the American Research Center with the idea of expanding its activities in Egypt with the aid of Counterpart Funds available under Public Law 480. Such expansion meant a program of research that would cover all phases of Egyptian culture and all the disciplines, including the social sciences. Eight universities, ranging in geographical location from California to the East Coast, which were interested in research in Egypt and primarily research in the social sciences, joined with the American Research Center in Egypt. Our organization then entered into a contract with the Department of State, under which Counterpart Funds would be allocated to the Center for carrying out the expanded program.

Most of our members are familiar with the terms of this contract. It covered two fiscal years, 1963-1964 and 1964-1965, and allocated the equivalent of \$500,000 in Counterpart Funds to the Center for the support of archaeological activities and research in the humanities and social sciences to be carried on in Egypt. The archaeological activities envisaged were excavations at Mendes, ancient site in the Delta, and at Fustat, the earliest Islamic capital of Egypt, as well as participation in the exploration and recording of St. Catharine's Monastery on Mount Sinai, a project already begun under the auspices of Columbia University, Princeton University, and the University of Michigan.

Since the contract was signed only in late June, 1963, the Center got off to a slow start. It was difficult, at that date, to appoint research scholars, most of whom had by that time made other commitments for the following academic year. We accordingly appointed only one full-time fellow and six short-term fellows. But exploration was begun at both Fustat and Mendes and we were able to contribute to the established work at Mt. Sinai.

In March of 1964 the Grants Committee of the Center met and reviewed 30 applications for fellowships and awarded 22. The Fellows appointed were in a variety of fields, ranging from an Egyptologist to a Political Scientist working on modern problems; they included several young historians, an artist, and a student of the modern Egyptian novel.

In the Autumn of 1964, the American Research Center in Egypt again approached the Department of State for funds to continue this program of archaeological investigation and research fellowships. We were then told that the Department of State was unable to support archaeological work with Counterpart Funds, and at a somewhat later date we were told that there were no funds available for continuing the research program in the social sciences after the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1965.

We were aware that there would be an unexpended balance at the end of the two-year contract, primarily because we had been unable to spend as much as we had anticipated for fellowships during 1963-1964, and the Department of State agreed that the unexpended balance could be carried over to the next fiscal year. At this point we did not know, however, whether funds could be obtained from any source for our work in archaeology. Estimating that there would be perhaps \$100,000 remaining to us in Counterpart Funds at the end of the season, we still could not allocate all this money to the fellowship research program, because a substantial amount of it might be needed for closing down the archaeological excavations. Accordingly we again applied to the Bureau of Cultural Affairs on February 1, 1965, for a supplementary appropriation in order that the fellowship program might be continued. This time, I am happy to say, our application met with approval, and we were awarded \$48,429 in Counterpart Funds. This will enable us to continue the fellowship research program during 1965-1966 and 1966-1967. We estimate we will have available for 1966-1967 the equivalent of \$90,000 for

fellowship in Egypt.

Meanwhile, one of our most active trustees, Mr. Donald Edgar, had learned that Counterpart Funds for archaeology were probably to be made available to the Smithsonian Institution. Mr. Edgar met on many occasions with Mr. William Warner and Miss Bea Davidson of that Institution to discuss the possibility of having part of these funds assigned to the Center for the continuation of its archaeological work in Egypt. In March, 1965, the Center submitted an application to the Smithsonian Institution and I am pleased to report that a contract has recently been signed between the Center and that Institution, under the terms of which \$250,000 will be allocated to the Center for the fiscal year 1965-1966. This will not only support our excavations at Fustat, Gebel Adda, and Mendes and the work at St. Catharine's Monastery, but will provide partial support also for the archaeological investigations of the University of Chicago at Luxor. While this contract covers only a single year, there is every hope that it may be renewed on an annual basis for at least a few additional years. We hope that later on support for the Fellowship program may be available through the Bureau of Cultural Affairs or possibly through the Office of Education.

The achievement of the American Research Center in Egypt, during the first two years of its expanded program, has been, I feel, commendable, especially when one examines the overall record. Twenty-five research Fellows have been supported in their scholarly pursuits in Egypt; ten are in Egypt during the present year. During the period of the contract, the Center has supported three archaeological excavations and has made possible the continuation of the magnificent work at St. Catharine's Monastery. All its undertakings will be continued during the coming year and in addition, as I have said, partial support will be provided for the work of the University of Chicago at Luxor.

We have, however, suffered from growing pains during these past two years, and the Center, like any new organization, has had to solve numerous administrative problems. Operating in a foreign country in itself gives rise to many problems, and these problems are intensified when large sums of money, several archaeological digs, and many research Fellows (most of them new to the country) are involved.

Mr. Ray Winfield Smith completed his tour of duty as Director of the Cairo office in May 1965.

Dr. George T. Scanlon was asked to serve as Acting Director for 1965-1966. The Center is most gratified that Dr. Scanlon agreed to this additional burden on his time and talents. The Center has also been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Zareh Mishetian as office manager in Cairo.

Now to turn to the operative procedure of the Center in the United States. As our members know, the Center has operated ever since its foundation on a very meager dollar budget. Its office, if it could be called that, was actually that of the Egyptian Department in the Museum of Fine Arts, to which institution we owe a debt of thanks for its long hospitality. Most of the persons engaged in "running" the Center volunteered their services. When clerical and other trained assistance was necessary, it was on a paid part-time basis. With the expansion of the Center, it became necessary to move out of the Museum, and we rented an office--which is actually little more than a broom-closet--on Harvard Square in Cambridge and put Mrs. Geiger in charge of it on a full-time basis.

Most of our members are familiar with the administrative structure of the Center. I should like, however, to recapitulate in broad outline the by-laws under which we operate. According to our articles of incorporation, we have a <u>Board of Trustees</u> consisting of 25 members elected by the membership on account of their interest in one or another of the many aspects of Egyptian culture. These Trustees have the responsibility of advising the <u>Executive Committee</u> on policies and program and of approving the budget of the Center. The <u>Executive Committee</u>, again in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, is composed of seven members of the Center. The President of the Center who, with the other officers, is elected annually by the membership, is subject to the control of the Executive Committee. It is this Committee which is charged with the supervision of the administration of our organization.

I realize that some of the members of the Board of Trustees have felt, on occasion, that the American Research Center in Egypt is actually run by a small Boston group, and to some degree there is a reason for their so feeling. However, the Center is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and there its office must be. It happens that I, as executive officer, work in Boston and live in Cambridge. I might add, parenthetically, that it is Mr. Lockard's misfortune not only to live in Cambridge but to have his own office a few blocks distant from that of the Center. As a result, a large burden has been placed upon him in discussing the day-to-day affairs of our organization, for he is a Trustee, a member of the Executive Committee, and also Chairman of the Grants Committee. I should like to point out, however, that members of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee and the Committee on Grants represent widely scattered sections of the United States and that despite the difficulties of communication involved their faithfulness to their obligation has permitted us to operate with some efficiency.

In closing, I want to thank you who are members for the confidence you have shown in the Center. Many of you have stayed with us loyally through bad times and good. Indeed, until the present decade, our membership, almost unaided, has kept our organization alive. That membership has, however, remained static: the total number of members has now been approximately the same for several years. Things have moved so rapidly and so many decisions have had to be made that the elected officers of the Center have not been able to embark upon a membership campaign. Most of them, indeed, have given time that they could ill afford to take from their other obligations to give it freely to the Center. It is hoped that the Board of Trustees can now turn its attention to enlisting new members to whom the work of the Center, especially now that its interests have so greatly widened, will appeal. Particularly in the Universities that hold collective memberships there must be persons who would like to participate as individuals in the work we are doing. There may also be other institutions who would find it advantageous to join our organization. I should like to appeal to all of you for your aid in increasing our membership. This is one of the important tasks to which we must all next turn.

Report of the Membership Secretary, Richard A. Parker

During the past year the Center's membership remained virtually the same with thirty new members admitted, offsetting the loss of twenty-seven.

Three valued members died: Professor Paul Sachs, Professor Charles A. Robinson, Jr., and Mrs. Joseph Lindon Smith, a founder of the Center and its guiding spirit ever since. Three members resigned and twenty-one were dropped for non-payment of dues.

At present we have 239 members as follows:

Regular Members	87
Contributing Members	
Sustaining Members	110
Associating Members	11
Associates	4
Fellows	4
Life Members	11
Institutional Members	
Honorary Members	8
nonorary Members	4
Total	239

Actual Receipts November 1, 1964 - June 30, 1965

] []	Balance in Bank Nov. 1, 1964 (Cash) Gift to Fustat Repayment to Gebel Adda Interest on Savings Account Dividend - Securities Income from Journal Subscriptions Income from Membership Dues	\$ 30,334.21 2,500.00 509.91 375.14 349.29 509.12 20,531.62
	Total Receipts	\$ 55,109.29
T B S	otal Disbursements ransferred to Savings alance in Bank (Cash) June 30, 1965 avings Accounts June 30, 1965 ecurities Account (Book Value) June 30, 1965	\$ 19,185.52 20,000.00 15,925.77 30,260.07 25,778.47

Anticipated Receipts July 1, 1965 - June 30, 1966

Membership Journal Interest on Savings 4% of \$30,000 Dist. Income Securities 4% of \$25,000	\$ 25,292.00 736.00 1,200.00 1,000.00	
Tota1	\$ 28,228.00	

Anticipated Disbursements - July 1, 1965 - June 30, 1966 \$ 31,745.00 Mr. Crocker called attention to the fact that the Center would be operating at a deficit next year and said that the Center hoped to eliminate this deficit by an increase in membership.

Election of Officers

The following nominations were approved by the membership:

President	William Stevenson Smit
First Vice-President	William Kelly Simpson
Vice-President	John A. Wilson
Membership Secretary	Richard A. Parker
Treasurer	Edgar Crocker
Assistant Treasurer	Mary B. Geiger
Executive Secretary	Mary B. Geiger

Executive Committee
Robert M. Adams
Morroe Berger
John Cooney
Gustav von Grunebaum
D. W. Lockard
Richard A. Parker
William Stevenson Smith

Board of Trustees: 1965-1970

Aziz Attiya
Henry Fischer (re-elected)
Myron B. Smith (re-elected)
Edward L. B. Terrace
John A. Wilson (re-elected)

ARCE welcomes Dr. Aziz Attiya and Dr. Edward L. B. Terrace as new members to the Board of Trustees.

PAPERS READ AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, WITH ABSTRACTS

I. Ancient Egypt: Art and Archaeology

WINIFRED NEEDLER: "PREDYNASTIC HUMAN FIGURES IN THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM"

Six Predynastic figures in the round were examined. One comes from the private collection of Sir Robert Mond. The rest were acquired in Egypt between 1907 and 1909 by C. T. Currelly, and were probably all purchased at Thebes.

In the absence of definite provenance the authenticity of one of these figures can be demonstrated beyong all doubt, but some of them at least may be established as genuine beyond reasonable doubt on grounds of internal evidence. Two belong to a well known and always slightly suspect type of female figure in unburnt clay or vegetable paste, which has recently been discussed by Ucko and Hodges (J. Warburg and Courtaeld Inst., 26 (1963) 205-222). Two others, a male and a female figure, belong to types known from published excavations. Another female figure can certainly be identified with a known figure which unfortunately is also without definite provenance. Finally, a small calcite bearded figure for whose form no adequate parallel is offered was analyzed and its various features compared with certain well known classes of Predynastic work, in an attempt to exonerate it.

SAMUEL YEIVIN: "SOME REMARKS ON THE EARLY PROTODYNASTIC PERIOD"

Recent excavations at Tel ERANY (formerly Tel Gath) and a cache of tools and weapons discovered in the southern Sharon prove an Egyptian occupation of southernmost Canaan under Merinar, extending possibly till Wudimu's reign.

For Egypt dynasties 0 and early 1st exhibit a succession of five kings, whose names consist of a title and a single word, which denotes an animal of the lower order. This is followed in the later 1st dynasty by a succession of rulers bearing two-word personal names, emphasizing the power of the king. A change of fashion in the material culture of the country appears at about the same time, as well as stronger emphasis on the development of agriculture in the Delta.

Could there have been a change of policy bringing about the withdrawal from foreign ventures in favour of greater development at home?

In view of this, the attribution of the Sinai relief to Sekhem-khet of the 3rd dynasty, rather than Semerkhet of the 1st, should at least not be considered as final.

ALEXANDER M. BADAWY: "ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE EGYPTIAN FORTRESS AT ASKUT"

Several problems were discussed: (1) the settling basins; (2) the septic drain; (3) the panel at foot of steps in commandant's columned hall; (4) the type of activity in fort; (5) the name of fort from the evidence of a seal impression.

K. C. SEELE: 'ORIENTAL INSTITUTE EXCAVATIONS IN NUBIA"

(No abstract provided)

H. G. FISCHER: "FOUR RECENT ACQUISITIONS OF NEW KINGDOM SCULPTURE IN THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART"

All four pieces show the influence or survival of Middle Kingdom features, although they differ widely in style and date. They span three centuries, from the eve of the New Kingdom to the reign of Ramesses II. The earliest, the seated limestone statue of Si-Amun (65.115) probably belongs to the Seventeenth Dynasty. The second, dating to the first half of the Eighteenth Dynasty, is a granite dyed statuette from Bubastis, representing a portly man and his wife (62.186). The third is the head of a steatite statuette representing a partially bald man who held an emblem before him; it dates to the end of the Eighteenth Dynasty or the beginning of the Nineteenth (64.225). The last, the standing wooden statuette of a man named Karo, who holds a falcon-topped staff, is from Deir el Medina, tomb 330 (65.114).

LEONARD H. LESKO: "A LITTLE MORE EVIDENCE FOR THE END OF THE 19TH DY."

Two Titularies added below the Seti II reliefs on the Amon temple at Hermopolis which were assumed to be of Ramses II are actually of Siptah, and his cartouches that were later replaced by those of Queen Tausret. In Tausret's tomb Siptah's cartouches were replaced by those of Seti II. The Hermopolis cartouches confirm the view that it was Tausret who tried to destroy the memory of Siptah. The position of the Siptah reliefs on the Amon temple would also seem to render somewhat questionable the view that Siptah was hostile to Seti II.

A. R. SCHULMAN: "MHR AND MSKB"

The two designations mhr and mskb are loan-words into Egyptian of apparent Semitic or Asiatic origin. Both are known only from documents of the Ramesside period. A previously unpublished stela in Philadelphia, on which both designations occur as the titles of the dedicator, a certain Pentawer, has prompted reexamination of the meanings of mhr and mskb. The former title appears to have indicated a military officer whose primary function was concerned with intelligence and reconnaissance. The latter title, in spite of its connections with tax-collecting, transport, and ships, was a military designation, one particularly applied to an officer of the chariotry.

G. E. KADISH: "THE SEARCH FOR A PAPYRUS NAMED HOOD"

This paper attempts to demonstrate that the gragment of a Ptolemaic hieratic papyrus herewith presented came from a roll some 15 feet in length, which was brought to England by Rev. W. Frankland Hood and later came into the hands of Mr. William Randolph Hearst. The parent roll is alleged to have contained two long religious texts otherwise unknown. It is hoped that tracing the history of the document will elicit some information which might lead to the discovery of the remainder of the Hood papyrus.

HANS GOEDICKE: "A CANAANITE STATUE FROM GEBEL TINGAR"

Gebel Tingar, opposite Aswan, was first visited in 1890 by Charles E. Wilbour, who discovered there the lower half of a statue with an obscure inscription on the back pillar. During the epigraphic survey conducted in fall 1964 with the support of the American Research Center in Egypt the upper half of this statue was found, which completes the inscription. It is now possible to distinguish the writings on the piece as "Canaanite" script, which makes this statue an object of great interest.

ANDREINA LEANZA BECKER-COLONNA: "THE CULT OF ISIS AND SERAPIS IN SICILY"

Archaeological and literary evidences of a widespread cult of Isis and Serapis in Italy are numerous. But it is in Sicily that the cult of the Egyptian gods developed in the favor both of the people and of the rulers. We know of an important sanctuary of Serapis at Siracuse, for instance, about which Cicero speaks in one of his orations against Verres (II,56,160).

Even more evident and interesting are the elements relative to the Egyptian gods found at Catania; coins, bronze and terracotta figurines, fragments of statues, columns inscribed with hieroglyphs and religious symbols give proof that important centers of Egyptian cult existed there and on the Eastern coast of Sicily.

In the Sicilian folklore even today traces of a very deeply rooted cult of the Goddess Isis are found in festivities and processions of the Christian Church.

ROBERT SCRANTON: "EGYPTIAN MATERIAL FROM A SANCTUARY OF ISIS IN GREECE"

Recent excavation at Kenchreal, port of ancient Corinth, has revealed buildings which may belong to the sanctuary of Isis known to have existed there. Within the buildings have been found quantities of furniture, engraved ivory, and other objects, of which some may have belonged to the sanctuary. Most important are vast amounts of a kind of opus sectile done in thin sheets of glass on slabs of mud plaster; the slabs were found packed in wooden crates and stacked in a room. Some of the slabs bear depictions of Egyptian subjects - ibis, crocodiles, fishermen, in swamps of papyrus and lotus - closely following the conventions of Dynastic paintings.

JAROSLAW STETKEWYCZ: "DEVELOPMENTS IN MODERN ARABIC"

(No abstract provided)

K.I.H. SEMAAN: "NASSER OF EGYPT; THE OFFICIAL PORTRAIT"

Biographical materials depicting Nasser's early life are scarce indeed. The researcher seeking information about the background of the President of the United Arab Republic finds himself confronted with the difficult task of going through a mass of fragmentary references to Nasser's relatives and his native village.

Recently, this writer discovered the only comprehensive document, dating from 1957, which presents Nasser as he himself wishes to be presented to his people. This paper will endeavor to give an account of this important statement of history.

ILIYA F. HARIK: "THE IMPACT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE EGYPTIAN INTELLECTUAL"

The Egyptian government has since 1956 embarked on a national development effort and committed its best human and material resources to make this policy succeed. The effect on Egyptian society has been deep and widespread. This paper explored the effects of the national development policy on the role of the intellectual in Egyptian society and the direction in which it is changing. The central thesis of the paper was that the intellectual in Egypt has been caught between his ideal aspirations, which are in sympathy with the policy of national development, and demands made upon him by this policy.

LABIB HABACHI: "PER-RACET AND PER-PTAH IN THE DELTA"

In the Golenischeff Papyrus, these two unknown place-names occur immediately after Tell El-Yahudiya and before Mendes. Thanks to a statue which we discovered in the village of Kafr Ed-Deir, we can locate Per-Raset exactly and Per-Ptah rather vaguely.

The statue, belonging to the Saitic Period, has an invocation to Merit-Re or Racet and Urthekau, residing in Sepet-Kheput in favour of a man called Mermia, who was a prophet of Racet and Ptah, residing in Per-Urthekau. Both father and son of this man, called Racet-tayifnakht, were given the same titles. Since the village is built on a rather high mound, and has blocks of various periods, we may be justified in taking Per-Racet and Per-Urthekau as the religious names of the village, and Sepet-Kheput as its civil one. But Ptah had also a cult there and Per-Ptah might have been standing not far away.

C. B. WELLES: "THE ARCHIVES OF LEON THE TOPARCH, OR THE DIFFICULTIES OF GOVERNING EGYPT"

A group of nine papyri in the Yale Collection throw a dim but revealing light on the problems which beset a king in controlling his officials. So far from being a smoothly-running, centralized bureaucracy was Egypt in the third century that not only Ptolemy but his local governors had trouble in getting things done and keeping track of their subordinates. The dates preserved, years 15-18, can only be those of Euergetes (233-230 B.C.), and the scene extends from Philadelphia in the Fayum to Alexandria. The persons concerned are the king and prime-minister on the one side, the nome governor

and officials of the local toparchy on the other, with their friends and staff. A Zenon who is mentioned may be the famous son of Agreophon from Caunus, elderly but still active in business. The government resorted to orders and constraints, the officials and their friends to collusion and evasion. We may suspect that the latter policy was the more effective, and life under a despotism was not only possible but pleasant.

JOHN D. COONEY: "BY-PRODUCTS OF A SUMMER'S RESEARCH AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM"

While in England at the request of the British Museum to compile a catalogue of their ancient Egyptian glass, frit, and allied materials, a few interesting discoveries were made which will necessitate the redating of objects previously accepted as New Kingdom but which can now be proved much later. Certain technical discoveries were also discussed.

A LETTER FROM CAIRO

By N. B. Millet

Excavations carried out by Mr. Nassif Muhammad Hassan of the Pyramids Inspectorate of the Antiquities Department near the Great Pyramid last year have laid bare the remains of some enigmatic structures dating back, it is believed to the reign of Khufu. The area is that immediately south of the southernmost of the three subsidiary pyramids of the Khufu complex, and north of the modern road that leads down to the Sphinx and the Valley Temple of Khafre. Mr. Nassif's excavations revealed two massive walls of rough stone and rubble, each five feet high and some four meters or so apart running parallel to each other in a north-south line from the edge of the road towards the south side of the queen's pyramid. The area between the walls was carefully smoothed and shows definite traces of mud plaster in several places. The walls are apparently built on virgin soil, but against the west side of the eaternmost of the two walls, at a higher level, and obviously later are further constructions, which seem to represent a series of earthen ramps superimposed one upon the other. The faces of the separate ramps are also smoothed and bear traces of thin mud plaster. In the rubbish which filled the area between the two walls were found several groups of mud jar-sealings bearing the cartouches of Snefru and Khufu. Although the exact function of the several structures is rather baffling, there can be no real doubt that they belong to the period of the building of the Great Pyramid, and that they form part of the elaborate system of earth construction ramps and platforms which must have grown up around the Pyramid and lesser constructions of Khufu as work went on. The area between the two walls can only be a road, and what looks like mud plaster is more likely than not the result of quantities of water thrown on the road's surface to lubricate it for the passage of sleds bearing stone blocks, and not a deliberate coating. The same may be said of the ramps, although the angle of incline of the preserved portions of these exceeds what would be practical for the moving up of heavy stones; there remains of course the possibility that they were what have been called return ramps, made shorter and steeper, for the gangs of men bringing the empty sleds down from the Pyramid after the stone had been delivered. The "ramps", if that is what they are, have their lower ends to the south and so slope up towards the general area of the

Pyramid. It can be assumed that blocks being brought up from the old Khufu quarry area to the south might have passed through this area, and of course the empty sleds going back for new loads would also have gone over much the same ground. The stone rubbish in the area consists generally of the local nummulitic stone, and it may be that the casing blocks of fine Tura limestone from across the river were brought to the worksite from another direction, by a ramp in the neighbourhood of the king's Valley Temple. It is of course perfectly possible that Mr. Nassif's ramps are related not to the Great Pyramid itself, but to some of the lesser structures - perhaps the queen's Pyramid just to the north, but in view of the sealings they must be contemporary.

A new fragment of the Palermo Stone has been discovered by M. Jean-Louis Seneval of the French Institute. The object turned up in a dealer's shop in Cairo, and it is to be regretted that the dealer was unable or unwilling to say where the object had been found. The fragment was most generously donated to the Egyptian Museaum, and M. Seneval is hoping to publish it shortly, in the course of a revaluation of the whole group of known fragments which he has been planning for some time. The new piece is a small chunk of black basalt with a portion of one surface preserved, representing, I am told, a few years of one of the archaic kings.

Institutions interested in excavation in Egypt in the future should know that the Egyptian Government now requires excavation workmen and their employers to contribute to the National Social Insurance Plan, a new medical and social-security scheme, painstakingly worked out during the last few years. This has the effect of raising labour costs by some twenty-eight percent, of which eight must be paid by the workmen and the balance by the employing agency. Excavators must therefore make allowances for this in their budgets. Some such plan has long been needed here, and we can only greet its institution with the warmest approval.

Cairo, 11th October, 1965

A LETTER FROM KASR AL-WIZZ, NUBIA

By George T. Scanlon

The wind rose this evening; the recurrent edge of the Nile lapping the shore like breakers through the night. There had been three days of penetrating heat, a sort of Nubian "Indian Summer", when there wasn't a ripple on the river, and the shores had become littorals of scum. Perfect weather for cleaning and photographing an excavated site, for bodies to imbibe this last taste of Nubian warmth, and for our cook and one of the camel patrol to take a felucca across to Adindan and find themselves stranded. Perhaps it was the decline of the fierce sun which presaged the onset of honest Nubian winter; the colours were too strong, shoots and rays of bronze-green and orange-pink above the crimson and garnet at horizon's edge. Mother Nile is forming Lake Nasser, against her will, mayhaps, but relentlessly, and she has had to rob this land of elements which haunt the heart: clean villages with an unstudied geometricity to placate a Cézanne, groves of palms where sands and shore mingled fruitfully, a people of separate temper living lives of a stately tempo and at one with the paysage; yes, she has had to rob Nubia of these, but there remain the daily solar accidents, the confluence of sands and lunar rocks, and the thousand regrets of those who worked to rescue and record the monuments and modes of her existence.

One of these monuments is the small Coptic monastery of Kasr al-Wizz, the Palace of the Wild Goose, or if you will more poetically, of the Heron, the six weeks' campaign ends today, but one would wish for more time to explore further, towards the west where there must be a continuation of those A- and C- Group cemeteries revealed immediately to the south in the Faras area. Wizz stands on a promonotory now fifteen to eighteen meters above the Nile, on the west bank, eighteen kilometers south of Abu Simbel. The Sudanese border is less than a kilometer to the south. The monastery is built on an undulant platform of the hill, it measures approximately sixty meters N-S, and thirty-five E-W. There was a church (12.5 x 22.5 m) attached to the monastery, once filled with frescoes, only pieces of which were we able to rescue. There were obviously two periods of church construction; one we believe to be 8th-9th century, from some pages of Coptic parchment found beneath the pavement of the room just beyond the baptistery; and the rebuilding dates probably to late 10th through early 12th centuries. These two eras collate with the two great building epochs of Faras, the bishopric to which Wizz was subject, whose buildings were plainly visable up river from her height, Which today is totally engulfed. Though Griffiths and Mileham hinted at a church, Monneret didn't look too carefully, and from the vaulted remains of the monastery refectory (which in his time were not totally filled) and from the name of the place in local parlance, he assumed Wizz to be a "palais". Towards the end of his 1964 season, Keith Seele visited Wizz and did some sounding and clearing. He proved definitely that there was a church, and uncovered enough of the nave, apse and podium to convince.

We know it was a typical three-aisled church, originally with three pillars on each side of the nave. The entrance was originally from the west, and there was a simple arched divide between the baptistery and tribunal. Later, the piers were bricked up and a haikal of five steps installed in the nave against it's new north wall. The original western entrance was filled in, and an entrance formed coming from a new southern courtyard, directly into the old narthex. Additional rooms were added to the east, in two of which we found crypts, hewn into the gabal platform. The baptistery now had a sunken tank, on two faces of which we found inscriptions in Nubian. All the aisles were vaulted, and probably frescoed. Additional ornament was provided by carved mauve sandstone lintels, tympana, capitals, capstones, etc. all painted with white plaster, and all carrying motifs related to other Nubian Christian buildings. One lintel, however, was exceptional, since it contained five different motifs, any combination of which had appeared before but not the carved composition of all five. In rooms immediately adjacent to the church on the south side we found two magazines of mud-brick and the place where they were made, with enormous remains of grey mud and chopped straw. Within the courtyard was a porter's "apartment" and one room filled to the brim with shards. We extracted ninety baskets of these, and confirmed through our typology the later rebuilding from the incidence of what Bill Adams terms "Classic Christian", "Late Christian Fine-Line", and "Late Slapdash". We now have the complete ground-plan of the church and enough evidence for an attempted section through the nave.

Seele had found four graves hewn side-by-side into the escarpment below the church, one on the same axis. It was decided to clean the escarpment, both to investigate the possibility of more tombs, and to make cleaning the monastery proper that much easier, since the fill could be tipped over the escarpment. Along a front of seventy meters, the rock was cleaned eighteen meters down towards the river. One more plundered tomb showed up, and the outlines of another never hewn. But two very interesting rooms, hewn into the gabal but with bricked walls, came through below

the monastery. One of these contained a cache of very early Christian lamps and shards of the fabric and decoration denominated "Early Christian" by Adams. It is impossible to ascertain the function of these rooms; the remnants of a terra-cotta pipe were in the path coming from a point directly under the platform and leading to the southern of the two rooms. A cistern? Possibly, but was there need for one with all the flowing Nile confronting one, and was there ever so much rain water? I doubt if they could form a cesspool. If they were tombs, and the lamps seem to point that way, then they were of a shape unlike any in the vicinity and were plundered beyond recognition.

Excavating the monastery proved much more difficult. (It measures roughly 33 x 35 m.) First it was packed with sand; and in some cases removing this sand meant sacrificing weakening vaulting. Then there was obviously a second floor, but when it was constructed, why, and what was the plan of it were impossible to adduce. Lastly, this whole area had been occupied after the dissolution of the monastery, for in many sections, we found the occluding sand packed down, and hearths erected. Many of the cells were blocked; other rooms were very clearly used for stabling animals, particularly camels and goats, whose droppings and forage were found throughout and at depths of a meter and a half into the fill. It is a problem yet to deduce the number of monks accommodated by the buildings. However, we can give the complete ground plan, complete with refectory (though this has lost most of the vaulting noted in Monneret's plate), latrines, kitchens, and a small courtyard opening to the east, on three sides of which there may have been open arcading, giving a charming aspect to the monastery from the river and eastern bank. Below the flooring of the courtyard and directly adjacent to the kitchen, we found a vault hewn into the platform, about a meter and a quarter high, and a meter and a half in round width, with an opening to the courtyard. This was a cold cellar, undoubtably for storing wine, and the opening was an air shaft.

Opening from a corridor leading to the refectory we cleaned what can only be considered as seven monk-cells. Originally these were plastered and had elements of frescoe, some fragments of which we found. In one of the rooms we discovered our finest and most important object - a complete (17 leaves) Coptic prayer-book, with illustrations and decorations in red, green, and black on whitish parchment. Among the illustrations was a most amusing crocodile, his mouth agape, entoning a psalm methinks, rather than in anticipation of jolly mastication; also some ostriches eating grapes and a very strangely, almost abstractly, drawn human face. This proves a tradition of book illustration to parallel that of fresco painting. It is my belief that this dates from the rebuilding, sometime in the 11th century, since this cell also contained a letter in Nubian and on paper, addressed 'Marianos to Marianos,' one of whom must have been the Bishop of Faras who died in 1039 (cf. <u>Kush</u>, XIII, in the report of Prof. Micaelowski on his third season at Faras).

A latrine next to the kitchen was filled with pottery shards, again most of them pointing to a "Classic Christian", "Late Christian Fine-Line" context. We were able to reconstruct an almost complete vase, with splendid paintings of birds and an antelope in panels; it is the most beautiful piece of slip-painted Christian ware from Nubia that I've seen. Companion pieces, alas not so complete, attest the artistic quality of the potters in the Faras area.

Thus, because of the parchment fragments beneath the pavement in the church, the prayer-book and the vase from the monastery, what we had thought to be an interesting building in the litany of Christian Nubia proved to be rather important. True, the monastery as a whole is roughly built and its decor may be thought "provincial", but it does relate directly to the history of Faras, paralleling its history almost exactly, and when one thinks of the two churches formerly at Adindan right across the river, this triangle (Wizz-Adindan-Faras) assumes an importance in Nubian history

that can be much better comprehended now that Wizz is available for comparative study.

That it is now available is due to the efforts of the Oriental Institute and in the last instance to the efforts of my splendid staff, each of whom worked wonders in a small time, and deserve now to be cited: Mr. Voyiech Kollontay, Architect and Assistant Director; Mr. Marek Marciniak, Epigraphist (both on loan to the Wizz Expedition by the Polish Center of Mediterranean Archaeology with permission of its distinguished Director Prof. K. Michaelowski); Mrs. Elinor Pawula, Artist; Mr. Neil MacKenzie, Field Archaeologist; Mr. Gordon Holler, Photographer; and Mr. John Semple, Pottery Supervisor. My work force of eighty Quftis accomplished the entire cleaning of site and escarpment in twenty-eight work days under the vigilant supervision of Ra' is Hamid Mahmud. Our Antiquities Inspector was Mr. Fahmy Abdal-Alim, who was most cooperative. All conspired to make my direction minimal, if not unnecessary.

Thanksgiving Day, 1965

A PROGRESS REPORT FROM A FELLOW OF THE CENTER

Readers of the <u>Newsletter</u> will be interested in learning how the Fellows associated with the Research Program of the Center are progressing in their studies. Below is the quarterly report of one of the Fellows now working in Cairo.

Mr. Wendell is in his second year as a grantee of the Center. Other reports will appear in subsequent <u>Newsletters</u>.

Report of Charles Wendell

During the major part of my first year as a Fellow of the American Research Center, from October to May, most mornings were spent at the American University, where I was enrolled in a course in Cairene colloquial Arabic prepared by Mr. Maurice Salib. Although the rather large number of hours - from two to three a day, five days a week - which the language program demanded, of necessity took time which would have been allocated to research, the course has since proved its practical worth as time well spent indeed. During this period, I also worked at home on the published articles of Ahmad Lutfi al-Sayvid toward the completion of my dissertation, which is provisionally entitled 'Ahmad Lutfi al-Sayyid and the Concept of an Egyptian Nation." I also managed to devote some time to working at the branch of the National Library in the Citadel, where a complete file of Lutfi's newspaper "Al-Jarida" is kept, in order to read his unpublished editorials. His career as a journalist extended from 1907-1914, almost coeval with the existence of the paper itself. By the end of September, I had completed my reading of the first three years, and since I am not enrolling for a second year at the University, I expect to finish the remainder by the end of January, at the very latest. Portions of the thesis itself have been written as research has progressed.

The opportunity to read the unpublished editorials of Lutfi al-Sayyid gives one a better notion of the magnitude of the intellectual and spiritual inner conflict that must have troubled every sincere thinker of the early decades of the twentieth century. In attempting to promulgate an acceptable vision of the Egyptian nation to itself, he had to reconcile the teachings of the West in their liberal, democratic aspects, with the very different social and political norms of the Islamic world. To mention only one still pressing problem, he had to find a viable answer to the questions raised by the existence of ethnic and religious minorities in an Islamic community. This is not the kind of subject matter that has found easy publication in Egypt in recent decades, though it was the center of extraordinarily lively discussion and controversy in the "Al-Jarida" period. Hence the necessity to consult the Citadel archives in order to arrive at a truer estimate of Lutfi's success or failure in his search for a reasonable blanding of the ideals of two great culture-worlds.

The period of Arabic historiography in Egypt which I selected as a particular field for exploration, namely the eighteenth century, has proved to be largely fallow, but not entirely hopeless. Most, indeed almost all, of the literary and scholarly productions of this age of MamTuk decline were backward-looking, derivative and narrow in scope. Unfortunately, I have not managed to unearth anyone of the stature of Al-Jabarti or Al-Sayyid al-Murtada, the only scholars of true eminence this century could produce in Egypt. But there is a sequence of three minor historians from the very end of the century, one even overlapping into the nineteenth, none of whom has been edited or published in the West, and two of whom, to the best of my knowledge, exist only in manuscript. These run from the very brief chronicle of events of the eighteenth century, ending with the Napoleonic invasion, of Isma'il al-Khashshab, a contemporary and friend of Al-Jabarti, through a somewhat larger work by Al-Shaykh al-Sharqawi, covering all of Islamic Egyptian history through the French occupation, and end with a work by an otherwise unknown author, Khalil b. Ahmad al-Rajabi, dealing with the reign of Muhammad Ali. The first and third are unpublished manuscripts: the second has been published a number of times in Egypt, though not in Europe or America. Thus far I have not been able to discover any existing manuscript version. All three are available at the National Library, where I have already begun work on them.

Since the works of these three historians dovetail as well as they do, I would like to prepare all three for publication in one volume containing both texts and translation, with the necessary notes and glossaries. They are good examples of late, rather decadent Arabic - viewed from the standpoint of the classical stylist with strong influence from the colloquial, especially in the first author, while the Al-Sharqawi work is typical of the rhymed prose style of the professional litterateur and scholar that had become de rigeur during the last few centuries of the pre-modern Islamic world. Had they been the products of a greater age, it might be possible to continue to ignore these minor efforts, but without them, the period remains an utter blank except for the great chronicle of Al-Jabarti and that of the Syrian Niqula al-Turki. And where a major political figure of the stature of Muhammad Ali is involved, it is of some importance to garner every last scrap of contemporary evidence. Furthermore, as examples of the Arabic prose styles of their time, they have more than a casual interest for students of the Arabic language. I am in fact thinking more of the needs of advanced students of Arabic, or of Near Eastern history, than of established scholars, in making my choice of these texts. For this reason, I

intend preserving all the peculiarities of orthography, including errors and solecisms, correcting them only in notes. The student of more or less "modern" Arabic these days receives, for the most part, rather puny and unrewarding journalistic fare in his prescribed studies. I believe that there is by now a genuine need for real, non-classical texts of the more recent centuries, which would be a welcome change as well as a moderate challenge to the serious student. The centuries between the classical period and the middle of the nineteenth century have been very much ignored, especially by those scholars who tend to share the bias of Arab literary critics, and yet in actual research, the student must, more often than not, deal with works and authors from this too-long neglected area, especially if his major field is history.

Charles Wendell

PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE CENTER

Cooney, John D. Amarna Reliefs from Hermopolis in American Collections. 110 pp., incl. 74 plates. Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Museum, 1965.

Among the many romantic notions that have crept into what passes as Egyptian history, is the attractive theory that the capital of the "heretic king" Akhenaten at what is today known as Amarna was systematically razed after his death to wipe out all evidence that he and his impiety had ever existed. The reliefs described in this very handsome book are a handful among some hundreds that have survived to prove that such was apparently not the case. They were found in the foundations of a temple built by Ramesses II at Hermopolis Magna, just across the Nile from Amarna, but there is no doubt that they were originally used in temples and palaces of Akhenaten's city, which must, accordingly, have remained standing for several generations after the site was abandoned. Mr. Cooney's catalogue of these pieces is far from being a mere check-list. It is a careful piece of scholarly research, beautifully illustrated and containing valuable material on the history and the revolutionary art of a troubled period.

_. "Pharaoh's Rat," in <u>Bulletin of the Cleveland Museum of Art</u> LII, 1965, 100-105, Illustrated.

In a charmingly written article inspired by a pleasing bronze statuette of a mongoose recently acquired by the Cleveland Museum, Mr. Cooney relates fact and fable concerning an animal little known in the Western world but venerated in Egypt during the Late Period.

Dunham, Dows, Ed. The Predynastic Cemetery N 7000, by Albert M. Lythgoe, edited by Dows Dunham (Naga-ed-Der Part IV. Univ. of California Publications: Egyptian Archaeology Vol. VII). xvi, 420 pp., 188 figs., XI plates, Map. Berkeley and Los Angeles, Univ. of California Press, 1965.

Among the skeletons in Egyptological closets are records of excavations made long ago but never published. Sometimes the records molder in institutional archives for lack of publication funds; sometimes the men

who made them put them aside, owing to the pressure of other work, for a future that never comes. Years pass; most of those who were connected with the excavations die; only the records remain, ignored or forgotten. It is a difficult and often thankless job for a scholar to rescue from oblivion records made by others, and few scholars care to undertake the task, preferring to add to their laurels by "original" contributions. In this publication, however, Mr. Dunham, who has already rendered a valuable service to Egyptology by publishing records made by the late George A. Reisner for the Harvard-Boston Expedition, brings to life part of the work of the first American archaeological expeditions to Egypt and one of the earliest scientific explorations of a prehistoric site. This was the Hearst Expedition of the University of California, undertaken in 1901 under the leadership of Reisner and Lythgoe. Mr. Lythgoe's exploration of Cemetery N 7000 was among the earliest excavations of an Egyptian scientific site. Although during the past three-score years or so, some of his very careful records had been scattered in various institutions and a number had been lost, Mr. Dunham has patiently assembled all available material and produced a publication that is a significant contribution to the early archaeology of Egypt.

Ettinghausen, Richard. "Foundation-moulded Leatherwork--a Rare Egyptian

Technique also used in Britain," in <u>Studies in Islamic Art and Architecture in Honor of Professor K.A.C. Creswell</u>, 63-71. Cairo, American University, Center for Arabic Studies, 1965.

Six wooden panels from Fustat, now in the Museum of Islamic Art, Cairo furnish a point of departure for an excellent article on an unusual technique. These panels consist of rather roughly finished boards with applied designs formed of thin strips of leather. Two of the panels show remains of a leather covering, moulded over strips and background; the remaining four must have employed a similar technique. The panels are probably to be dated to the tenth century. A similar technique, in which the foundation design is moulded over string, is known in later book-bindings, and also occurs earlier. Among the earlier examples is the fragment of a pouch dating from the seventh century and possibly from Egypt. The earliest of all occurs rather surprisingly in the binding of a Gospel buried with St. Cuthbert in England in 687. This bind may well be traceable to Egyptian influence, for numerous vessels of Coptic origin have been found in Anglo-Saxon graves of the seventh century.

Goedicke, Hans. "Bemerkungen zum Siegelzylinder Berlin Inv. Nr. 20659," in Zeitschrift fur agyptische Sprache 92, 1965, 32-38.

. "A Cylinder Seal of a Ruler of Byblos in the Third Millenium," in Mitteilungen des Deutschen archaologischen Instituts, Abt. Kairo 19, 1963, 1-5; plate.

These articles, rich in philological comment, offer variant readings of the difficult texts on two Old-Kingdom cylinder seals, both previously published. The first, a seal of Pepi I, casts some light on administration during the Sixth Dynasty; the second, probably of the late Fifth Dynasty, reflects "relations between Byblos and Egypt and to some degree indicates a cultural (although not a political) dependence of the latter.

" '80' as a sportive writing," in Chronique d'Egypte XL, 1965, 28-33.

Two high officials of the Old Kingdom put inscriptions on the lids of their stone coffins enjoining various officials of the necropolis to see that the coffins are securely closed.

Among those so enjoined appears the enigmatic figure "80", which scholars have usually taken to mean "eighty men." Professor Goedicke shows that the numeral must be a phonetic pun on the word for "stoneworker."

JOURNAL

The publication of Volume 4 of the JARCE has been delayed and will appear about March 1966. At the same time the editors regretfully have to announce a rise in the subscription price, which will be raised from \$8.00 to \$10.00 a year. Members of the Center will continue to receive the <u>Journal</u> under the same terms as before.

Volume 4 will be of great interest to readers in several fields. Two of the Expeditions in Egypt sponsored by the Center report on the excavations at Mendes and at Fustat. The Fustat expedition, led by George Scanlon, formerly Director of the Center, is excavating a large area of the medieval capital of Egypt. Dr. Scanlon's report publishes a number of the important discoveries made in the first season of 1963. Professor Donald Hansen, Field Director of the Mendes Expedition, makes a preliminary report of his first season in 1964 and includes the highly interesting Old Kingdom material excavated there.

Among other articles to be published in Volume 4 are the following:

- W. Y. Adams, Architectural Evolution of the Nubian Church, 500-1400 A.D.
- J. D. Cooney, Persian Influence in Late Egyptian Art.
- H G. Fischer, Bi; and the Deified Vizier Mhw.
- A. R. Schulman, The Berlin "Trauerrelief" and some Officials of Tutankhamun and Ay.
- E. Young, A Possible Consanguinous Marriage in the Time of Philip Arrhidaeus.
- R. H. Pierce, A Problem in Demotic Lexicography.
- E. M. Husselman, The Martyrdom of Ayriacus and Julitta in Coptic.
- E. J. Grube, A Bronze Bowl from Egypt.
- D. Thompson, A Fatamid Textile of Coptic Tradition with Arabic Inscription.

The volume concludes with Brief Communications and Book Reviews.

E. L. B. Terrace Editor

The Acquisitions List, January 1 - September 30, 1965, of the Wilbour Library of Egyptology has been published recently. Members who wish to obtain copies may be put on the mailing list by addressing their requests to the Wilbour Librarian at The Brooklyn Museum, Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, New York 11238.

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